

In the Claims

Please cancel Claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 without prejudice.

Please add new Claims 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 as follows:

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7. An improved forearm guard designed to be worn in an occupational or sports environment wherein one or both of the forearms of the wearer are subject to potential impact injury, wherein said guard is fabricated from a moisture absorbing material and includes means for releasably affixing said guard to a forearm of a wearer, wherein the improvement comprises:

A. A forearm guard comprising a sleeve having an impact absorbing pad associated with the forearm portion thereof, wherein said sleeve has an overall length substantially conforming to at least said forearm of a wearer, and further characterized, by virtue of its intrinsic properties and/or weaving, as conforming said forearm so as to retain said guard in place over said forearm during movement of said forearm,

said impact absorbing pad being either integral with said sleeve or releasable affixed to said sleeve with a hook and loop-like fastener, said pad comprising an expandable foam or elastomer in an impact absorbing effective amount, relative to said pad dimension and thickness, to protect said forearm of said wearer during engagement in an occupational or sports activity which exposes said forearm to potential impact and injury; and

B. Means for permanent or releasable attachment of said impact absorbing pad to said sleeve.

8. An improved protective garment designed to be worn in an occupational or sports environment wherein one or both of the forearms of the wearer are subject to potential impact injury, wherein said garment is fabricated from a moisture absorbing material having at least one long sleeve and a forearm guard either releasably affixed or permanently attached to said sleeve, wherein the improvement comprises:

A. A garment comprising at least one long sleeve of moisture absorbing material having an impact absorbing pad associated with the forearm portion thereof, wherein said long sleeve has an overall length substantially conforming to an arm of a wearer, and further characterized, by virtue of its intrinsic properties and/or weaving, as conforming said arm so as to retain said guard in place over said forearm during movement of said forearm,

said impact absorbing pad being either integral with said sleeve or releasable affixed to said sleeve with a hook and loop-like fastener, said pad comprising an expandable foam or elastomer in an impact absorbing effective amount, relative to said pad dimension and thickness, to protect said forearm of said wearer during engagement in an occupational or sports activity which exposes said forearm to potential impact and injury; and

B. Means for permanent or releasable attachment of said impact absorbing pad to said sleeve.

9. The forearm guard of Claim 7, wherein said sleeve is fabricated from a moisture absorbent material.

10. The forearm guard of Claim 7, wherein said sleeve is fabricated from a terry cloth-material.

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11. The forearm guard of Claim 7, wherein said impact resistant pad comprises neoprene.

12. The forearm guard of Claim 7, wherein said impact resistant pad comprises neoprene and has an effective impact resistant thickness of from about less than about 0.25 inches and at least about 0.125 inches.

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